

# Montana Transportation Commission

*March 6, 2006 – Telephone meeting*

For additional information, please call (406) 444-7200 or visit the commission's web site at [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans\\_comm/meetings.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans_comm/meetings.shtml).  
For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592, or call the Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request.

The Montana Transportation Commission met via conference call on March 6, 2006.

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:06 am with the following participants:

Bill Kennedy, Transportation Commission Chair (District 5)  
Deb Kottel, District 3 Transportation Commissioner  
Nancy Espy, District 4 Transportation Commissioner  
Jim Lynch, MDT Director  
Jim Currie, MDT Deputy Director  
Tim Reardon, MDT Chief Counsel  
Loran Frazier, MDT Chief Engineer  
Mark Wissinger, MDT Construction Engineer  
Suzy Althof, MDT Contract Plans Bureau Chief

## **Agenda item 1: Award projects from February 23, 2006 letting**

Loran Frazier reviewed staff recommendations to award 16 of the 17 projects from the February 23, 2006 bid letting as follows:

### **Project 3: Sportsman's Campground – East [STPP 46-5(2)51]**

There were four bidders on this project and the low bid was 10.81 percent above the engineers' estimate. Guidelines for awarding a project of this size require that the lowest responsive bid may be no more than 10 percent over the engineers' estimate.

The item with the most dollar variance is the gabion structure: a mechanically stabilized wall built of gabion wire mesh baskets that will be tiered for construction. There are three separate walls to be built for this project. They will be time consuming and fairly complex to build. The bids were received for this item ranged from \$300 to \$503. The engineers' estimate was \$110. Bid history for this item is not very helpful because every structure is different, however, these prices range from \$120 to \$563. It would appear that the engineers' estimate for this item is low. If we revise our estimate to reflect \$300 per cubic meter, the estimate would be adjusted by \$369,360. The revised engineers' estimate would be \$6,437,922.70 and the low bid is then within guidelines for award.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Ascorp, Inc. DBA Debco Construction of Orofino, Idaho in the amount of \$6,724,385.92

### **Project 4: Hysham Intchange – East [IM 94-2(31)67]**

Three bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 14.97 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Prince, Inc. of Forsyth in the amount of \$3,934,732.70

### **Project 5: Peerless-East [SFCS 248-6(7)27]**

#### **East of Glentana-East [STPS 248-2(5)12]**

Four bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 0.5 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Northern Improvement Co. of Fargo, ND in the amount of \$4,035,313.95

**Project 6: Milligan Canyon Interchange [IM 90-(63)264]  
Cardwell – Harrison [STPS 359-1(7)1]**

One bid was tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 3.09 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Jim Gilman Excavating Inc. of Butte in the amount of \$2,204,251.30.

**Project 7: Main & Jackrabbit Lane-Belgrade [SFCU-STPS 291-1(5)1]**

Three bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 9.67 percent above our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to J T L Group-Belgrade in the amount of \$2,068,791.50.

**Project 8: Buxton- N & S [IM 15-2(88)116]**

One bid was tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 5.23 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Jim Gilman Excavating, Inc. of Butte in the amount of \$2,339,444.30.

**Project 9: Grass Range-North [NH 61-3(23)45]**

Two bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 4.79 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Century Companies, Inc. of Lewistown in the amount of \$1,626,636.18.

**Project 10: Jct US 287- North & South [NH 50-1(25)4]  
West Yellowstone – North [NH 50-1(26)0]**

We received three bids for this project and the low bid was 27.75 percent over the engineers' estimate. Guidelines for awarding a project of this size require that the lowest responsive bid may be no more than 10 percent over the engineers' estimate. The bid item with the largest dollar variation is the ¾-inch Grade S plant mix.

If mobilization is adjusted accordingly, this would add \$35,000 to the estimate. With a revised engineers' estimate of \$2,077,990.34, the low bid is 9.7 percent above the engineers' estimate and within guidelines for award.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to H. K. Contractors, Inc. of Idaho Falls in the amount of \$2,278,939.90.

**Project 11: Ennis-West [STPP 29-1(44)0]**

Three bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 8.34 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Hollow Contracting, Inc-Butte in the amount of \$741,414.53.

**Project 12: Melville-N & S [STPP 45-1(24)17]**

Two bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 5.37 percent over our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Century Companies, Inc-Lewistown in the amount of \$2,394,265.30

**Project 13: Lame Deer-North [STPP 39-1(37)0]**

Two bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 12.93 percent over our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Century Companies Inc. of Lewistown in the amount of \$1,077,656.60.

**Project 14: Junction Secondary 418 – West [STPS 416-1(12)9]**

We received one bid for this project and it was 104.85 percent above the engineers' estimate. The bidders mobilization was listed at 45 percent. Our engineers' estimate was approximately 14 percent, which is typical for this type of project, therefore no adjustments will be made for mobilization. A telephone call to Riverside Contracting, Inc. to discuss the bid was not returned.

Staff recommends the commission reject this bid and **not** award the project contract to Riverside Contracting Inc. of Missoula in the amount of \$1,321,123.13.

**Project 15: East of Judith River [STPP 81-1(13)27]**

Two bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 8.09 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Century Companies, Inc. of Lewistown in the amount of \$1,150,598.85.

**Project 16: Belgrade – North [SFCS 290-1(5)3]**

Two bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 12.81 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to J T L Group Inc. of Belgrade in the amount of \$888,447.35.

**Project 17: Judith River – 7 km NE of Hobson [BR 9023(13)]**

Three bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 9.29 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Sletten Construction Co. of Great Falls in the amount of \$515,522.76.

**Project 18: JCT Mt 2-SW [STPS 393-1(6)0]**

Two bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 22.63 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Jim Gilman Excavating, Inc. of Butte in the amount of \$116,749.53.

*Special advertisement*

**Bridge Repairs on Gallatin River [IM-BH 0002(807)]**

Four bids were tendered. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid, which was 26 percent below our engineers' estimate.

Staff recommended the contract be awarded to Four Beers, Inc. of Columbus in the amount of \$494,638.00

Commissioner Espy moved to set aside project fourteen and accept staff recommendations to award all other project contracts to the respective low bidder; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted aye.

Commissioner Espy moved to not award project fourteen; Commissioner Kottel seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted aye.

The call concluded at 10:39 am.

Bill Kennedy, Chairman  
Montana Transportation Commission

Jim Currie, Deputy Director  
Montana Department of Transportation

Brett Mihelish, Intern for  
Lorelle Demont, Secretary  
Montana Transportation Commission